

Award Winning Books

Many teachers encourage their students to read award-winning books. While the Newbery Award is the most well-known, there are many other awards which honor titles appropriate for middle school students. The following is a description of several recognized awards that include lists of award winning books which are suitable for middle school students. In addition, many groups such as the American Library Association and the National Council for Teachers of English annually publish lists of the year's best books. A list of these sources follows.

Newbery Award Books

Since its inception in 1922, the Newbery Medal has been awarded annually by the American Library Association for the most distinguished children's book published in the previous year by an American author. Award winners and honor books are chosen for their excellence and individuality. Fiction, nonfiction and poetry titles are all eligible to win, either as the gold medal or as honor books. Because of their consistent high quality, Newbery Medal and Honor books are recommended for use as class novels, literature circles and individual reading choices.

For more information about the history of the award and for a complete list of Newbery medal winners and honor books, use this Internet site: www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html

The Newbery Companion, by John T. Gillespie and Corinne J. Naden (Libraries Unlimited, 2001) is a comprehensive collection of book talks and plot summaries of all the Newbery Award and Honor Books.

The following is a list of Newbery Medal and Honor books published since 1990, both fiction and nonfiction, which are suitable for middle school students:

Avi. *Nothing But The Truth; The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
Bauer, Joan. *Hope Was Here*
Brooks, Bruce. *What Hearts*
Coman, Carolyn. *What Jamie Saw*
Conly, Jane Leslie. *Crazy Lady*
Couloumbis, Audrey. *Getting Near to Baby*
Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons; The Wanderer*
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy; The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*
Cushman, Karen. *Catherine Called Birdy; The Midwife's Apprentice*
DeCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn Dixie*
Farmer, Nancy. *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm; A Girl Named Disaster*
Fenner, Carol. *Yolanda's Genius*
Freedman, Russell. *Eleanor Roosevelt*
Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza Loses Control; Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*
Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Lily's Crossing*
Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*
Holm, Jennifer L. *Our Only May Amelia*